JS 44 (Rev. 06/17)

# **CIVIL COVER SHEET**

The JS 44 civil cover sheet and the information contained herein neither replace nor supplement the filing and service of pleadings or other papers as required by law, except as provided by local rules of court. This form, approved by the Judicial Conference of the United States in September 1974, is required for the use of the Clerk of Court for the purpose of initiating the civil docket sheet. (SEE INSTRUCTIONS ON NEXT PAGE OF THIS FORM.)

\$41.600.01	(DDM )-D11100	210715 511 713311 771315 5					
I. (a) PLAINTIFFS				DEFENDANTS			
GJJM Enterprises LLC				Christopher Porrino, New Jersey Attorney General; New Jersey			
				Division of Alcoholic Beverage Control; Jonathan Orsen			
(b) County of Residence of First Listed Plaintiff Atlantic				County of Residence	of First Listed Defendant	Mercer	
(EXCEPT IN U.S. PLAINTIFF CASES)				(IN U.S. PLAINTIFF CASES ONLY)			
				NOTE: IN LAND CO THE TRACT	ONDEMNATION CASES, USE OF LAND INVOLVED.	THE LOCATION OF	
(c) Attorneys (Firm Name, Address, and Telephone Number)				Attorneys (If Known)			
Stephen D. Holtzman, Holtzman & McClain PC, 524 Maple Ave. S 200, Linwood, NJ 08221, 609-601-0900				New Jersey Attorn NJ 08625	ey General's Office, Pe	ost Office Box 112, Trenton,	
II. BASIS OF JURISDI	CTION (Place an "X" in O	ne Box Only)		TIZENSHIP OF P (For Diversity Cases Only)	RINCIPAL PARTIE	S (Place an "X" in One Box for Plaintiff and One Box for Defendant)	
🗇 1 U.S. Government 🛛 🗗 3 Federal Question				P	if def	PTF DEF	
Plaintiff	(U.S. Government i	Not a Party)	Citiz	en of This State	I		
U.S. Government     Defendant	1 4 Diversity (Indicate Citizensh	ip of Parties in Item III)	Citiz	en of Another State	2	nd Principal Place	
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120 Marine	O 310 Airplane	365 Personal Injury -		of Property 21 USC 881	☐ 423 Withdrawal	☐ 376 Qui Tam (31 USC	
☐ 130 Miller Act ☐ 140 Negotiable Instrument	315 Airplane Product Liability	Product Liability  367 Health Care/	D 69	00 Other	28 USC 157	3729(a))  3729(a))  400 State Reapportionment	
150 Recovery of Overpayment	320 Assault, Libel &	Pharmaceutical			PROPERTY RIGHTS	☐ 410 State Reapportionment	
& Enforcement of Judgment	Slander	Personal Injury			☐ 820 Copyrights	430 Banks and Banking	
151 Medicare Act	330 Federal Employers'	Product Liability	.		30 Patent	C 450 Commerce	
152 Recovery of Defaulted     Student Loans	Liability  340 Marine	368 Asbestos Persona Injury Product	li		O 835 Patent - Abbreviated New Drug Application	460 Deportation     470 Racketeer Influenced and	
(Excludes Veterans)	☐ 345 Marine Product	Liability			☐ 840 Trademark	Corrupt Organizations	
☐ 153 Recovery of Overpayment	Liability	PERSONAL PROPE		LABOR	SOCIAL SECURITY		
of Veteran's Benefits  160 Stockholders' Suits	☐ 350 Motor Vehicle ☐ 355 Motor Vehicle	<ul><li>370 Other Fraud</li><li>371 Truth in Lending</li></ul>		10 Fair Labor Standards Act	☐ 861 HIA (1395ff) ☐ 862 Black Lung (923)	<ul> <li>490 Cable/Sat TV</li> <li>850 Securities/Commodities/</li> </ul>	
190 Other Contract	Product Liability	380 Other Personal		20 Labor/Management	☐ 863 DIWC/DIWW (405(g	)) Exchange	
195 Contract Product Liability	360 Other Personal	Property Damage		Relations	☐ 864 SSID Title XVI	☐ 890 Other Statutory Actions	
196 Franchise	Injury  362 Personal Injury -	385 Property Damage Product Liability		10 Railway Labor Act 51 Family and Medical	☐ 865 RSI (405(g))	<ul> <li>891 Agricultural Acts</li> <li>893 Environmental Matters</li> </ul>	
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240 Torts to Land	O 443 Housing/	Sentence			26 USC 7609	Agency Decision	
245 Tort Product Liability	Accommodations	☐ 530 General			4	© 950 Constitutionality of	
290 All Other Real Property	<ul> <li>445 Amer. w/Disabilities -</li> <li>Employment</li> </ul>	Other:		IMMIGRATION 52 Naturalization Application		State Statutes	
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VI. CAUSE OF ACTIO	42 USC 1983			•			
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VIII. RELATED CAS	E(S)						
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JS 44 Reverse (Rev. 06/17)

#### INSTRUCTIONS FOR ATTORNEYS COMPLETING CIVIL COVER SHEET FORM JS 44

Authority For Civil Cover Sheet

The JS 44 civil cover sheet and the information contained herein neither replaces nor supplements the filings and service of pleading or other papers as required by law, except as provided by local rules of court. This form, approved by the Judicial Conference of the United States in September 1974, is required for the use of the Clerk of Court for the purpose of initiating the civil docket sheet. Consequently, a civil cover sheet is submitted to the Clerk of Court for each civil complaint filed. The attorney filing a case should complete the form as follows:

- I.(a) Plaintiffs-Defendants. Enter names (last, first, middle initial) of plaintiff and defendant. If the plaintiff or defendant is a government agency, use only the full name or standard abbreviations. If the plaintiff or defendant is an official within a government agency, identify first the agency and then the official, giving both name and title.
  - (b) County of Residence. For each civil case filed, except U.S. plaintiff cases, enter the name of the county where the first listed plaintiff resides at the time of filing. In U.S. plaintiff cases, enter the name of the county in which the first listed defendant resides at the time of filing. (NOTE: In land condemnation cases, the county of residence of the "defendant" is the location of the tract of land involved.)
  - (c) Attorneys. Enter the firm name, address, telephone number, and attorney of record. If there are several attorneys, list them on an attachment, noting in this section "(see attachment)".
- II. Jurisdiction. The basis of jurisdiction is set forth under Rule 8(a), F.R.Cv.P., which requires that jurisdictions be shown in pleadings. Place an "X" in one of the boxes. If there is more than one basis of jurisdiction, precedence is given in the order shown below.

  United States plaintiff. (1) Jurisdiction based on 28 U.S.C. 1345 and 1348. Suits by agencies and officers of the United States are included here. United States defendant. (2) When the plaintiff is suing the United States, its officers or agencies, place an "X" in this box.

  Federal question. (3) This refers to suits under 28 U.S.C. 1331, where jurisdiction arises under the Constitution of the United States, an amendment to the Constitution, an act of Congress or a treaty of the United States. In cases where the U.S. is a party, the U.S. plaintiff or defendant code takes precedence, and box 1 or 2 should be marked.

  Diversity of citizenship. (4) This refers to suits under 28 U.S.C. 1332, where parties are citizens of different states. When Box 4 is checked, the citizenship of the different parties must be checked. (See Section III below; NOTE: federal question actions take precedence over diversity cases.)
- III. Residence (citizenship) of Principal Parties. This section of the JS 44 is to be completed if diversity of citizenship was indicated above. Mark this section for each principal party.
- IV. Nature of Suit. Place an "X" in the appropriate box. If there are multiple nature of suit codes associated with the case, pick the nature of suit code that is most applicable. Click here for: Nature of Suit Code Descriptions.
- V. Origin. Place an "X" in one of the seven boxes.
  - Original Proceedings. (1) Cases which originate in the United States district courts.

Removed from State Court. (2) Proceedings initiated in state courts may be removed to the district courts under Title 28 U.S.C., Section 1441. When the petition for removal is granted, check this box.

Remanded from Appellate Court. (3) Check this box for cases remanded to the district court for further action. Use the date of remand as the filing date.

Reinstated or Reopened. (4) Check this box for cases reinstated or reopened in the district court. Use the reopening date as the filing date. Transferred from Another District. (5) For cases transferred under Title 28 U.S.C. Section 1404(a). Do not use this for within district transfers or multidistrict litigation transfers.

Multidistrict Litigation – Transfer. (6) Check this box when a multidistrict case is transferred into the district under authority of Title 28 U.S.C. Section 1407.

Multidistrict Litigation – Direct File. (8) Check this box when a multidistrict case is filed in the same district as the Master MDL docket.

PLEASE NOTE THAT THERE IS NOT AN ORIGIN CODE 7. Origin Code 7 was used for historical records and is no longer relevant due to changes in statue.

- VI. Cause of Action. Report the civil statute directly related to the cause of action and give a brief description of the cause. Do not cite jurisdictional statutes unless diversity. Example: U.S. Civil Statute: 47 USC 553 Brief Description: Unauthorized reception of cable service
- VII. Requested in Complaint. Class Action. Place an "X" in this box if you are filing a class action under Rule 23, F.R.Cv.P.

  Demand. In this space enter the actual dollar amount being demanded or indicate other demand, such as a preliminary injunction.

  Jury Demand. Check the appropriate box to indicate whether or not a jury is being demanded.
- VIII. Related Cases. This section of the JS 44 is used to reference related pending cases, if any. If there are related pending cases, insert the docket numbers and the corresponding judge names for such cases.

Date and Attorney Signature. Date and sign the civil cover sheet.

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A Professional Corporation
524 Maple Avenue, Suite 200
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(609) 601-0900
Stephen D. Holtzman, Esquire (SDH 9921)
Jeffrey S. McClain, Esquire (JSM 0966)
Attorneys for Plaintiff GJJM ENTERPRISES, LLC d/b/a Stiletto

GJJM ENTERPRISES, LLC, d/b/a Stiletto, 181 S. South Carolina Ave. Atlantic City, NJ 08401,

Plaintiff,

v.

CHRISTOPHER PORRINO, New Jersey Attorney General, Richard J. Hughes Justice Complex 25 Market Street Post Office Box 112 Trenton, NJ 08625,

NEW JERSEY DIVISION OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL, 140 East Front Street, 5<sup>th</sup> Floor, Trenton, NJ 08625,

and

DAVID P. RIBLE, Director of New Jersey Division of Alcoholic Beverage Control, In His Official Capacity Only, 140 East Front Street, 5<sup>th</sup> Floor, Trenton, NJ 08625,

Defendants.

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
District of New Jersey

Civil Action

VERIFIED COMPLAINT FOR DECLARATORY, INJUNCTIVE, AND MONETARY RELIEF

Now comes Plaintiff GJJM Enterprises, LLC ("GJJM"), by and through counsel, who for its Complaint against Defendants Christopher Porrino, in his official capacity as New Jersey Attorney General; the New Jersey Division of Alcoholic Beverage Control; and David P. Rible,

in his official capacity as Director of the New Jersey Division of Alcoholic Beverage Control, states as follows:

#### PRELIMINARY STATEMENT

1. This is an action under the Constitution and laws of the United States asserting that N.J.S.A. 2C:33-27(a)(2), a New Jersey statute that prohibits restaurants from advertising that patrons are permitted to bring and consume their own beer and wine on premises, violates the First Amendment. On its face, the statute imposes a content-based restriction on speech, bans truthful, non-misleading advertising about the lawful consumption of "BYOB" beverages at restaurants and cafes, and acts as a prior restraint on constitutionally-protected expression. In this Complaint, GJJM seeks declaratory and injunctive relief prohibiting the enforcement of the statute throughout the State of New Jersey. GJJM also seeks monetary relief to compensate GJJM for the loss of its protected free speech rights.

### **JURISDICTION**

- 2. This is a lawsuit authorized by law to redress deprivations, under color of state law, of rights, privileges and immunities secured by the First and Fourteenth Amendments of the United States Constitution. Jurisdiction is conferred on this Court by 28 U.S.C. § 1331; 28 U.S.C. § 1343; 28 U.S.C. § \$ 2201 and 2202; and by 42 U.S.C. § 1983.
- 3. Plaintiff also states causes of action under the Constitution and laws of the State of New Jersey. These claims are inherently related to the other claims in this case, over which this Court has original jurisdiction, that they are a part of the same case or controversy under Article III of the United States Constitution. Accordingly, this Court has supplemental jurisdiction of these claims under 28 U.S.C. § 1367.

4. Venue is appropriate in the District of New Jersey because the acts described in this Complaint have all occurred within the state of New Jersey.

#### **PARTIES**

- 5. Plaintiff GJJM Enterprises, LLC d/b/a Stiletto owns and operates a nightclub, Stiletto, located at 185 S. South Carolina Ave. in Atlantic City, New Jersey. Stiletto presents live erotic dance performances and other forms of live expressive entertainment geared towards an adult audience. Stiletto is open to the general adult public and serves non-alcoholic liquid refreshments to its patrons, although Stiletto does not maintain an alcoholic beverage license and does not sell alcoholic drinks. Stiletto customers are permitted to bring and consume their own beer and wine on the premises consistent with New Jersey law. GJJM maintains a valid mercantile license for this establishment issued by the City of Atlantic City.
- 6. Defendant Christopher Porrino is the Attorney General for the State of New Jersey and is sued in his official capacity only. He is vested with the power and duty under New Jersey law to enforce all laws of the state, including those pertaining to alcoholic beverages.
- 7. Defendant New Jersey Division of Alcoholic Beverage Control is the agency of the State of New Jersey vested with establishing and enforcing policy regarding the manufacture, distribution, and sale of alcoholic beverages.
- 8. Defendant David P. Rible is the Director of the New Jersey Division of Alcoholic Beverage Control and is sued in his official capacity only. He is responsible under state law for supervising the manufacture, distribution, and sale of alcoholic beverages in accordance with state alcoholic beverage policy.

### STATEMENT OF THE CASE

- 9. Stiletto is one of Atlantic City's premier nightlife destinations. Located adjacent to the Atlantic City boardwalk, the club features non-alcoholic beverages, upscale live entertainment, and frequently hosts tourists, convention groups, and bachelor parties. Stiletto draws the vast majority of its customer base from Atlantic City resorts and hotels and is open to the general adult public.
- 10. As a service to its customers, Stiletto permits its clientele to bring their own outside beer and wine to consume on the premises, but does not allow customers to bring in or consume liquor or mixed drinks. Stiletto does, however, sell and serve non-alcoholic liquid refreshments to its customers. Stiletto does not maintain a state-issued license to serve alcoholic beverages.
- 11. Section 2C:33-27 of the New Jersey Code governs the consumption of alcohol at public places that serve liquid refreshment, but that, like Stiletto, do not have a license to sell alcoholic beverages. Under the statute, patrons may bring their own beer and wine to the restaurant, but may not bring outside liquor. See N.J.S.A. 2C:33-27(a)(1). The restaurant may not, however, advertise either inside or outside the establishment that patrons are permitted to bring their own alcoholic beverages. Id. at (a)(2). In other words, restaurants and other public places serving liquid refreshments are prohibited from notifying customers that their establishments are "BYOB," even though it is fully lawful for patrons to bring and consume their own alcoholic beverages on the premises. Id.
- 12. Violations of the advertising ban are treated as criminal offenses. See N.J.S.A. 2C:33-27(c). Individuals who advertise that customers may "BYOB" to their restaurants face prosecution as disorderly persons. Id. In addition to the criminal penalties for that offense,

courts may also prohibit individuals who violate the advertising ban from permitting the consumption of "BYOB" beverages at their businesses. *Id*.

- 13. N.J.S.A. 2C:33-27 constitutes the official policy of the New Jersey Attorney General and the New Jersey Division of Alcoholic Beverage Control with respect to "BYOB" advertising.
- 14. Stiletto does not presently advertise the opportunity to bring outside beer and wine to its customers for fear of prosecution under N.J.S.A. 2C:33-27(c). As such, Stiletto has censored its expression as a direct result of the advertising ban's chilling effect.
- 15. Absent the ban, Stiletto would provide truthful, nonmisleading advertising to its customer base by using the term "BYOB" on its website, print advertising materials (including print ads in magazines and newspapers), signage, and customer literature, including menus and price lists. Because it is both lawful and permissible to consume "BYOB" beverages at Stiletto, this information would enable customers to make more informed decisions about their dining and entertainment options.
- 16. Both on its face and as applied to GJJM, N.J.S.A. 2C:33-27 violates the First Amendment to the United States Constitution and related provisions of the New Jersey Constitution because it prohibits truthful and nonmisleading advertising about a lawful business activity and restricts speech based on its content. The Court should accordingly enjoin the Attorney General, the New Jersey Division of Alcoholic Beverage Control, and its Director from enforcing the "BYOB" advertising ban.

### STATEMENT OF CLAIMS

# COUNT ONE: Violation of First Amendment Rights Under 42 U.S.C. § 1983

- 17. Each of the foregoing paragraphs is incorporated by reference as if repeated here.
- 18. Plaintiff GJJM retains a protected First Amendment right to distribute truthful, nonmisleading commercial speech and advertising about its products, services, and business model. This includes the right to label itself as a "BYOB" establishment and to provide information to customers about the option of bringing their own beer and wine to consume on the premises. GJJM also retains a right to speak out about matters of public concern without facing content-based restrictions on its expression, be it commercial or non-commercial.
- 19. N.J.S.A. 2C:33-27 imposes a content-based ban on advertising and expression by restaurants that is presumptively unconstitutional and cannot survive strict scrutiny. The government lacks a compelling governmental interest in prohibiting speech about "BYOB" while permitting other commercial speech related to the sale and consumption of alcoholic beverages.
- 20. By and through the potential enforcement of N.J.S.A. 2C:33-27, the New Jersey Attorney General, the Division of Alcoholic Beverage Control, and its Director have created a chilling effect on GJJM's constitutionally-protected right to free speech and commercial speech.
- 21. The government maintains no compelling, substantial, or legitimate interest in prohibiting the distribution of truthful, nonmisleading information about the option for GJJM's customers to bring alcohol for on-site consumption.
- 22. Even if the government did retain such an interest, enforcement of N.J.S.A. 2C:33-27 through criminal prosecution and the imposition of restrictions on alcohol consumption

are not the least restrictive means of accomplishing the government's goals, nor are these enforcement remedies narrowly tailored to the government's interests.

23. GJJM is therefore entitled to a declaration that the "BYOB" advertising ban contained in N.J.S.A. 2C:33-27(a)(2) is unconstitutional, to preliminary and permanent injunctive relief enjoining the government from enforcing N.J.S.A. 2C:33-27(a)(2), and monetary damages in an amount to be determined at trial to compensate GJJM for the loss of its right to present truthful commercial speech to the consenting adult public.

# COUNT TWO: Violations of New Jersey Constitution

- 24. Each of the foregoing paragraphs is incorporated by reference as if repeated here.
- 25. GJJM pleads each of the foregoing federal constitutional claims in the alternative as state constitutional claims under the New Jersey Constitution. More specifically, GJJM pleads a violation of its right to free expression under Article I, Section 6 of the New Jersey Constitution.

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff GJJM Enterprises, LLC seeks the following relief against Defendants Christopher Porrino, in his official capacity as New Jersey Attorney General; the New Jersey Division of Alcoholic Beverage Control; and David P. Rible, in his official capacity as Director of the New Jersey Division of Alcoholic Beverage Control:

- 1. A declaration that the "BYOB" advertising ban contained in N.J.S.A. 2C:33-27(a)(2) violates the First Amendment to the United States Constitution and Article I, Section 6 of the New Jersey Constitution;
- 2. Preliminary and permanent injunctive relief, to be sought by separate motion, enjoining Defendants Christopher Porrino, in his official capacity as New Jersey Attorney General; the New Jersey Division of Alcoholic Beverage Control; and David P. Rible, in his

official capacity as Director of the New Jersey Division of Alcoholic Beverage Control from enforcing the "BYOB" advertising ban contained in N.J.S.A. 2C:33-27;

- 3. Monetary damages in an amount to be determined at trial to compensate GJJM for the chilling effect N.J.S.A. 2C:33-27 has imposed on its First Amendment rights;
- 4. An award of Plaintiff's reasonable attorney fees and costs pursuant to 42 U.S.C. 1988; and
- 5. Any such other relief in law or equity that this Court deems appropriate under the circumstances.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Stephen D. Holtzman (SDH 9921)
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Counsel for Plaintiff GJJM Enterprises, LLC

### VERIFICATION

I, Phillip Griffo, hereby declare as follows:

2017.

- 1. Pursuant to a management agreement between a corporation owned by me and GJJM Enterprises, LLC, the Plaintiff in this lawsuit, I serve as the manager of Stiletto.
- 2. I have personal knowledge of the facts alleged in the foregoing Complaint and believe, under penalty of perjury, each alleged fact to be true and accurate to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Executed thisday of S	eptember, 2017. Phillip Griffe	
STATE OF NEW JERSEY	: :	

COUNTY OF Allentic:

Sworn to and subscribed before me in my presence on the day of September 1.

Notary Public